



Piano/Vocal arrangements by John Nicholas

Album art direction by BLK/MRKT Album artwork courtesy of A&M Records Photography by Marcus Klinko and Indrani

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# BLAGK EVENPERS

Ever since they were a fledgling group in the environs of Los Angeles, the Black Eyed Peas have flaunted a passionate, energetic hip-hop spirit people have always been drawn to. They've earned fans worldwide with their inventive approach to hip-hop music, inspiring people with loose rhymes, a positive spirit, and a funkafied vibe. On *Elephunk*, the group's third album, that spirit seems to course through their beings even more than ever.

The Black Eyed Peas, will.iam, apl.de.ap, Taboo, and newcomer Fergie named the album *Elephunk* to conjure up a big, deep funk sound. Produced in its entirety by will.iam and apl, the album boasts a mix of live instruments and traditional hip-hop samples and beats. It also mixes the group's breathless verbal acrobatics with a very conscious view of the world.

BEP's music has always been firmly entrenched in hip-hop but also has had an eye to other musical forms. *Elephunk*, more than previous albums, seems to transcend the simple genre categorization, something will.iam admits was intentional, both lyrically and musically. "This is a hip-hop record but we didn't go into this with hip-hop on our minds," says will.iam. "We were just thinking of good songs, good music. We didn't want to say anything typical, like 'My style is this, and my rhymes are like that.' A couple might have slipped in, but we were really tired of saying things like that."

Elephunk was recorded in three different spurts over the last two years, beginning in 2001. "We would record about eight songs each time," remembers will.i.am. "Then each time we went back, I felt I'd changed and grown as a producer. So we'd do eight more songs, and those eight would be better than the previous eight. It kept going until we were done."

william's rhymes are clever and irreverent, but it's his work as a producer on *Elephunk* that he's most proud of. Songs like "Where Is the Love" with Justin Timberlake, the quickstepping fast-rap of "Hands Up," and the Louis Armstrong growl of "Smells Like Funk," demonstrate not just a sophisticated ear for new sounds but a head for interesting arrangements and tight songwriting. will.i.am's talent lies in his

ability to mold live instruments, samples, and drum machines into a uniform sound. He's always taken a musically broad perspective, and on this album it shows more than ever.

"My volition as a producer has definitely grown," he says. "I think my understanding of music has grown. I've discovered new ways of manifesting my thoughts into reality, and I know my equipment better."

Elephunk also welcomes a new member into the BEP fold, Los Angeles native Fergie. The singer met will.i.am at BEP shows around town and was invited to join in on a recording session. In the studio, one song turned to three turned to five turned to an invitation to join the group. Says Fergie about her experience, "This group is just totally open to new ideas and directions."

Some of those new directions on *Elephunk* include songs like "Anxiety," which matches the Black Eyed Peas with popular platinum rock band Papa Roach, whom they met and bonded with on tour. The groups are really similar, says will.i.am. "The energy between us was thick. When we started talking to them, it was a real conversation, like we were 60 and just hangin' out at a bus stop."

The song itself, a hard-hitting rhythmic jam, relates the tension of the world today with personal struggles the members of the different groups have gone through. "These last couple of years haven't been easy," says will.i.am. "Is it guilt? Stress? Uncertainty over what's going to happen in the next five years? Is it rap? Hip-hop? The fact that everyone is clubbin' and gun-totin' and we're thought of as just some fashionable motherfuckers? It's a whole bunch of stuff going on."

Overall, will.i.am couldn't be happier with the way the album's turned out, and he feels people will be open to the new directions the Black Eyed Peas are going in. "The audience is smarter than they've ever been," he says. "Maybe ten years ago, they were run-of-the-mill, but these kids today aren't the same. They've got it together."

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#### CONTENTS

- 4 hands up
- 17 labor day (it's a holiday)
- 28 let's get retarded
- 37 hey mama
- 47 shut up

- 58 smells like funk
- 70 latin girls
- 80 sexy
- 91 fly away
- 100 the boogie that be
- 111 the apl song
- 117 anxiety
- 124 where is the love

### Hands Up

Words and Music by Will Adams, Allan Pineda, Jaime Gomez, Billy May, Vivanco Moises, Michael Fratantuno, George Pajon Jr. and Jean Baptiste





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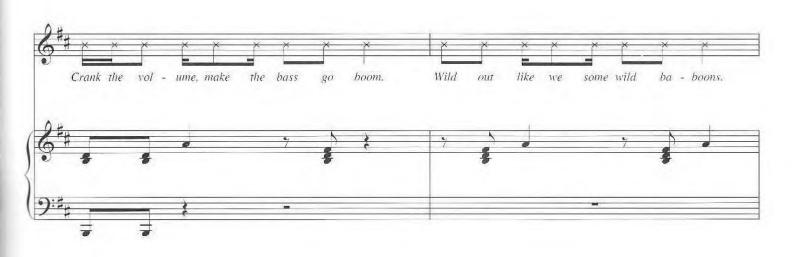


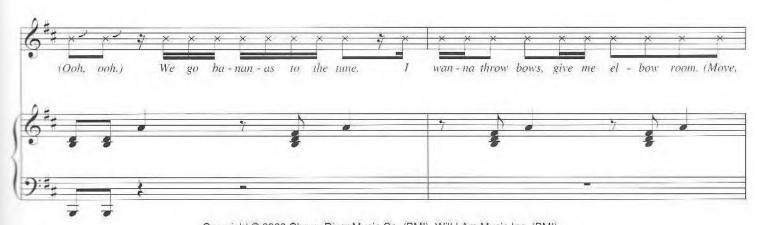




## Labor Day (It's a Holiday)





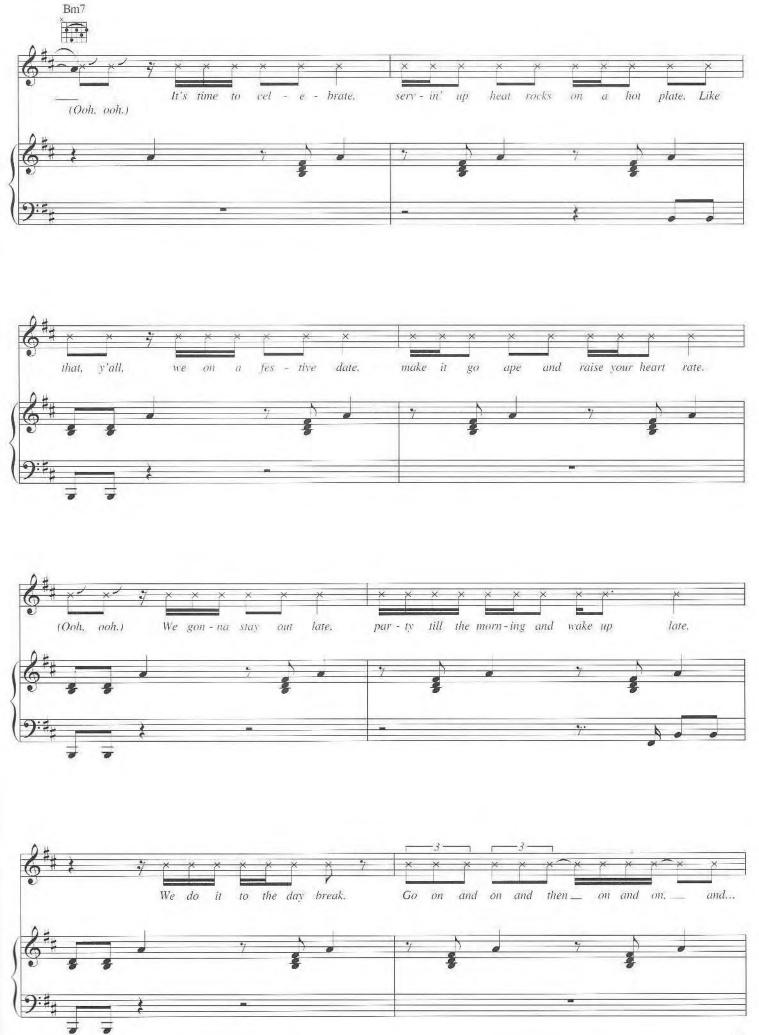


















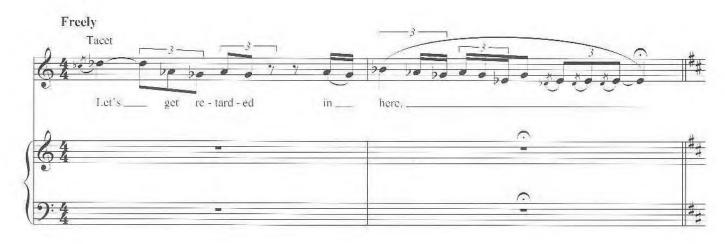


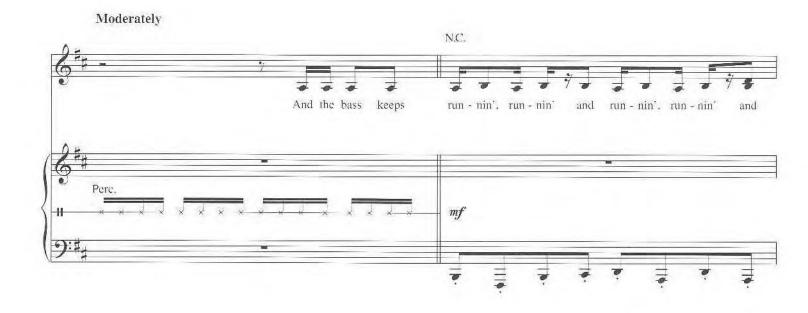


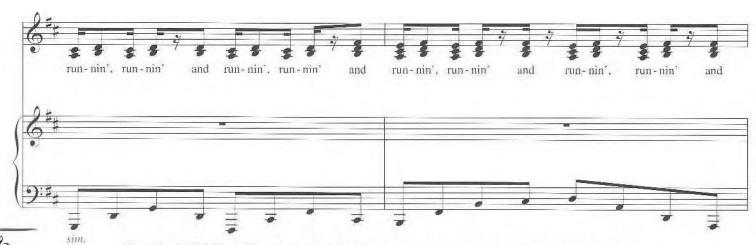


#### Let's Get Retarded

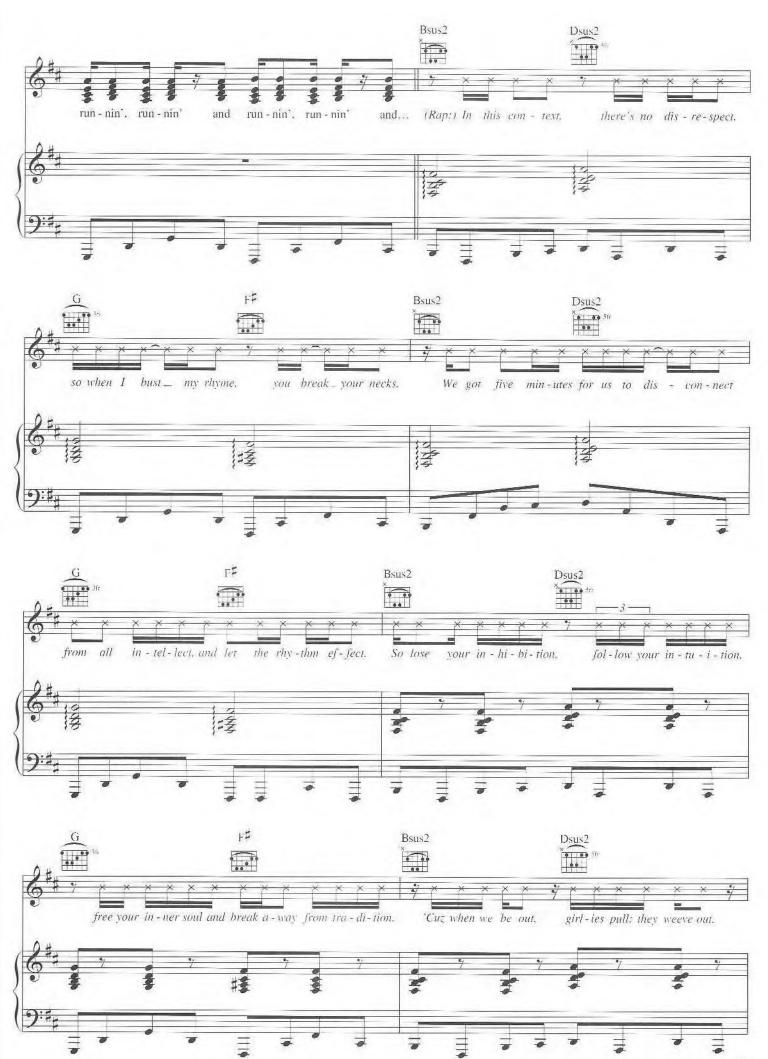
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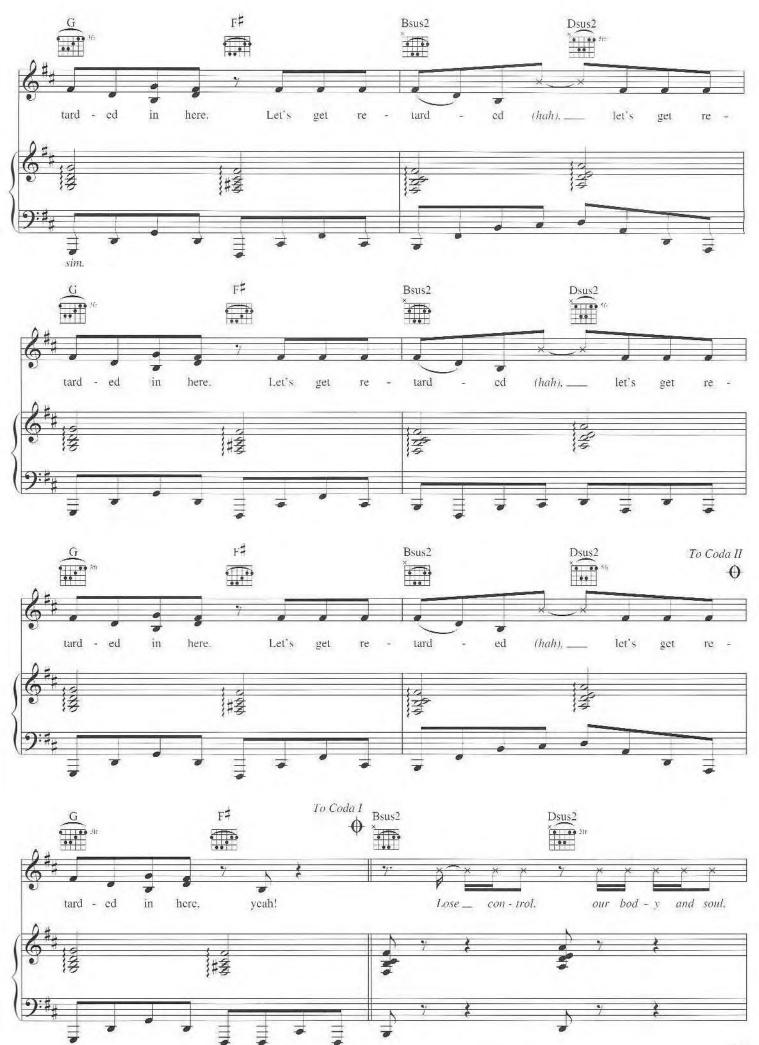




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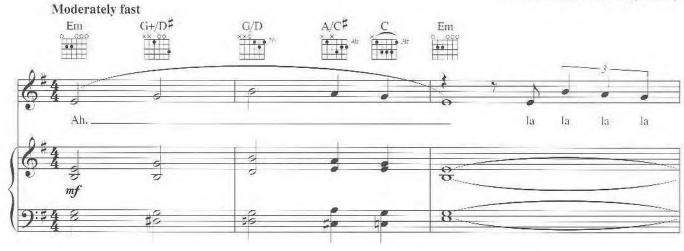


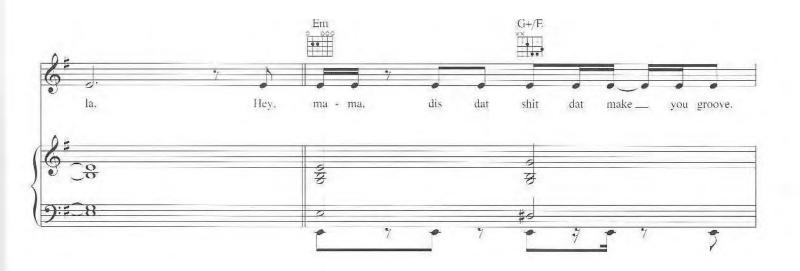


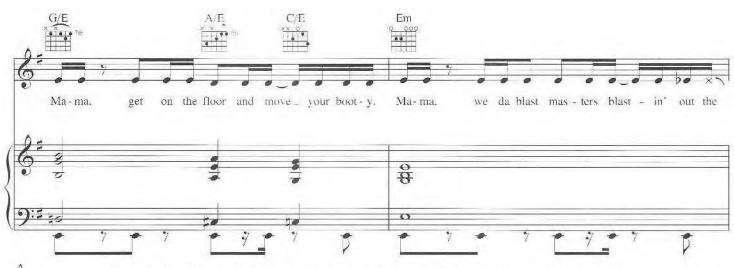


## Hey Mama

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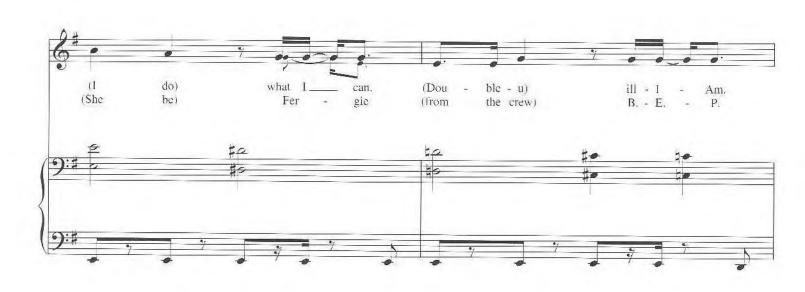


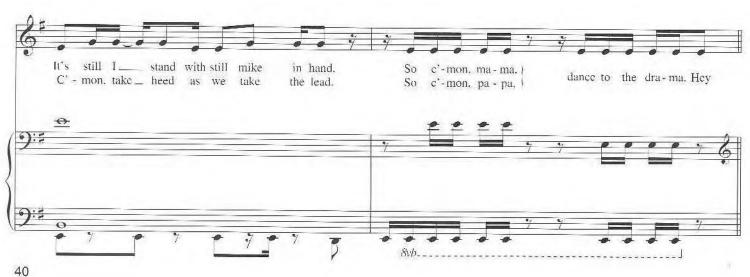
























## Shut Up

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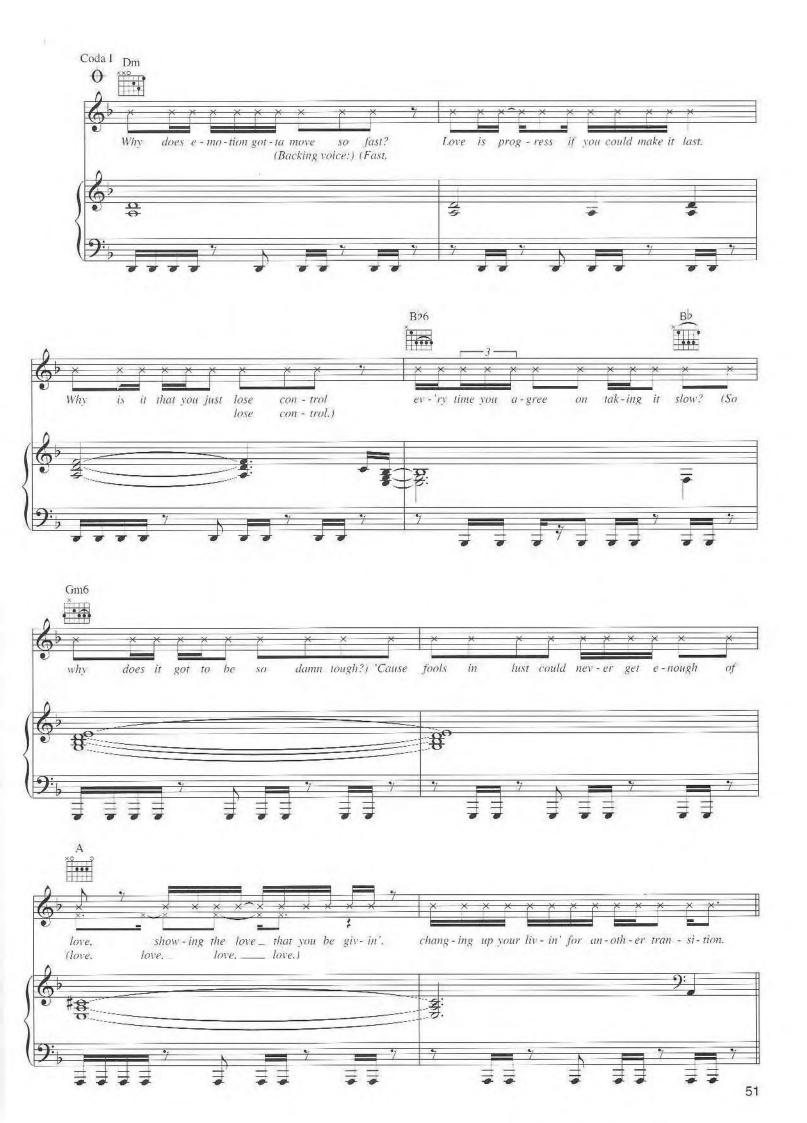






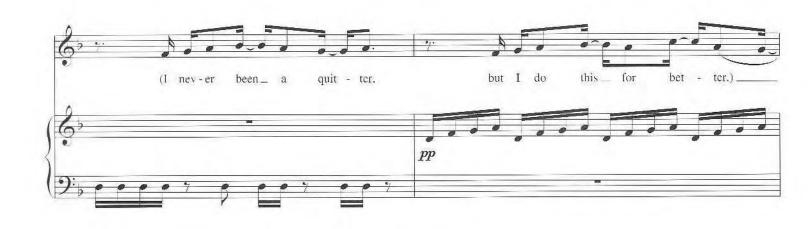




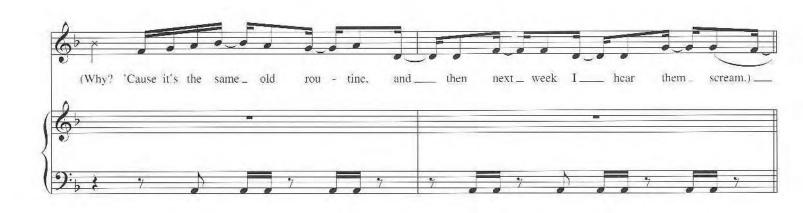


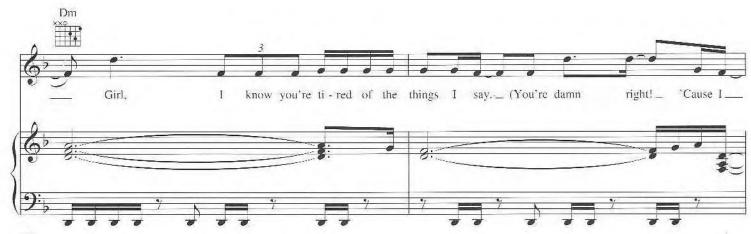














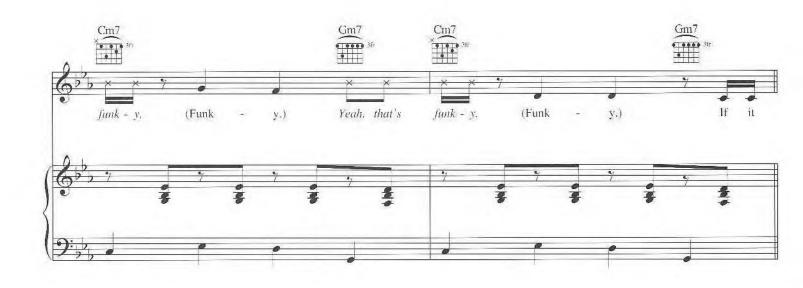


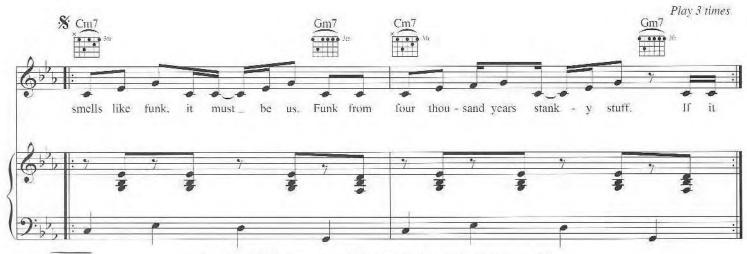


## Smells Like Funk

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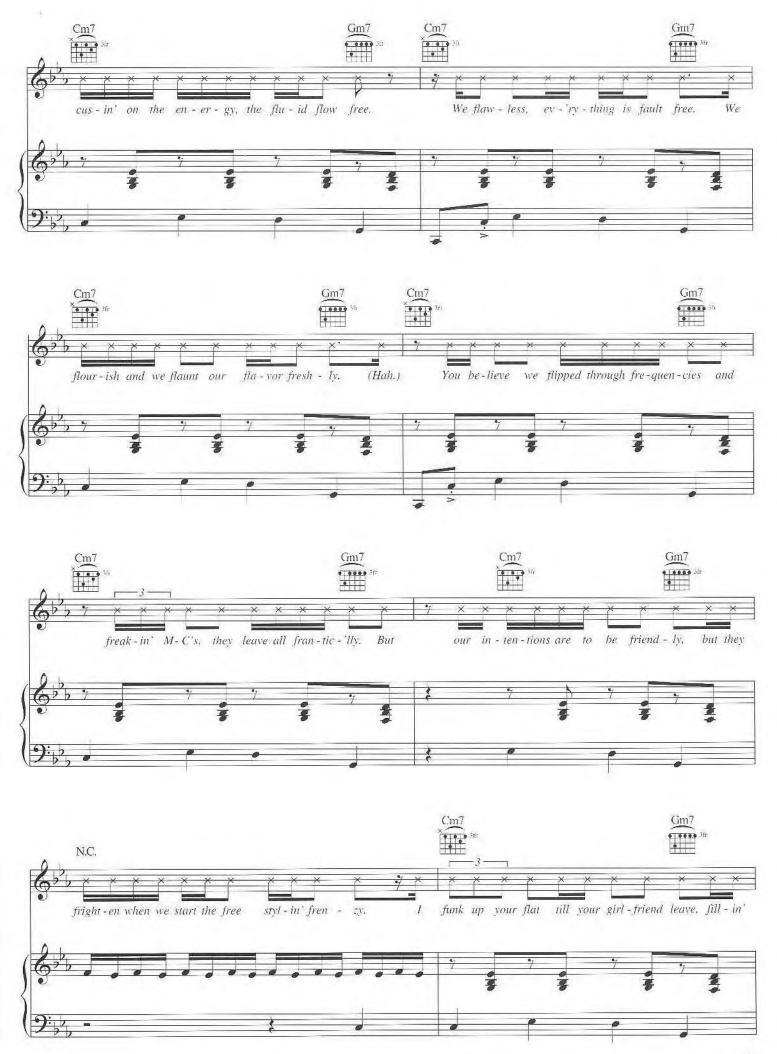
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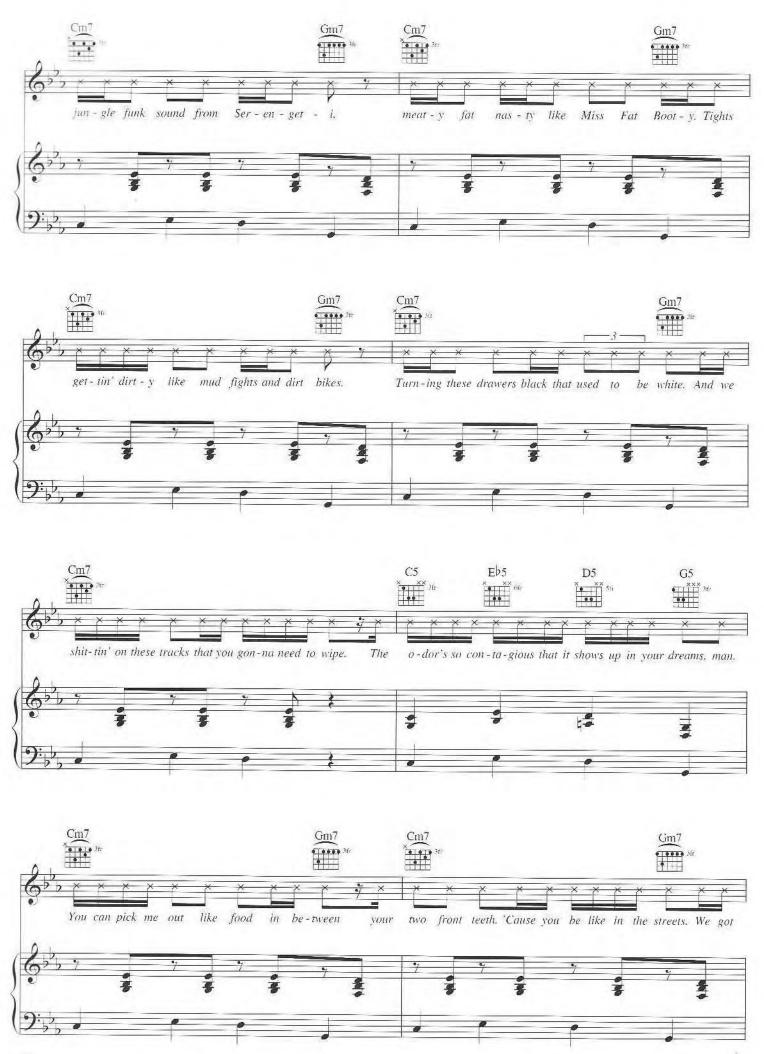




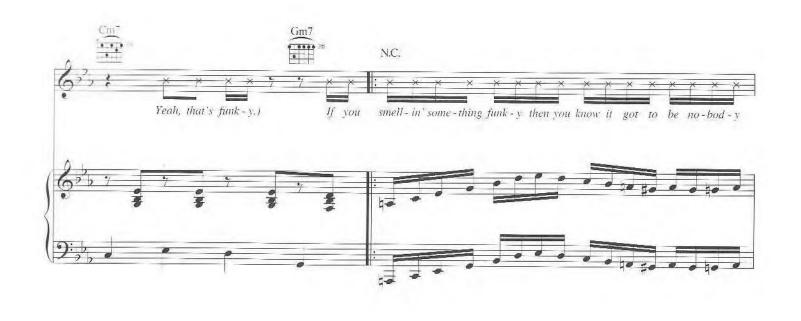




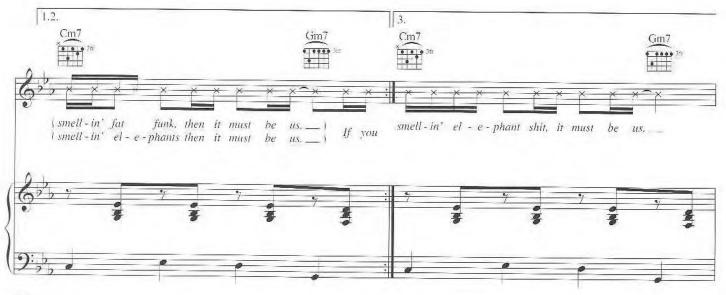


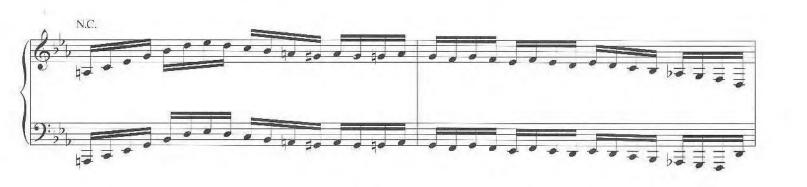


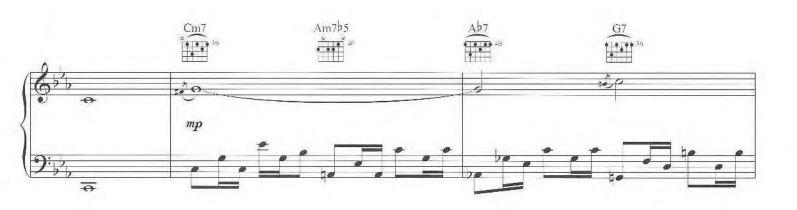


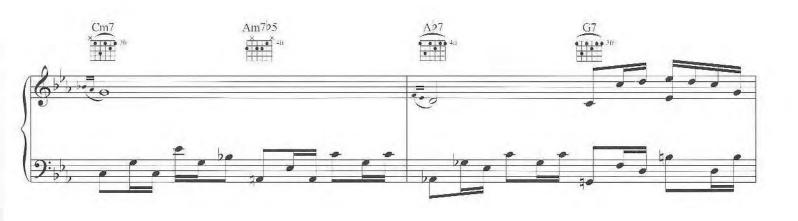


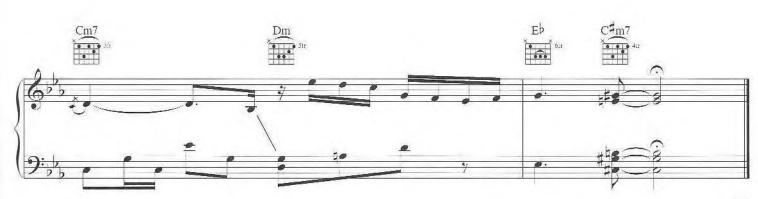








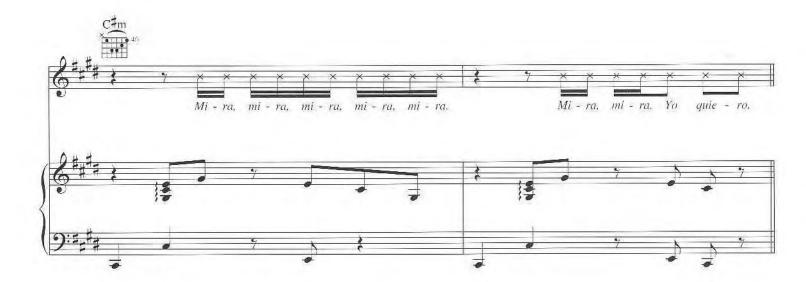




## Latin Girls

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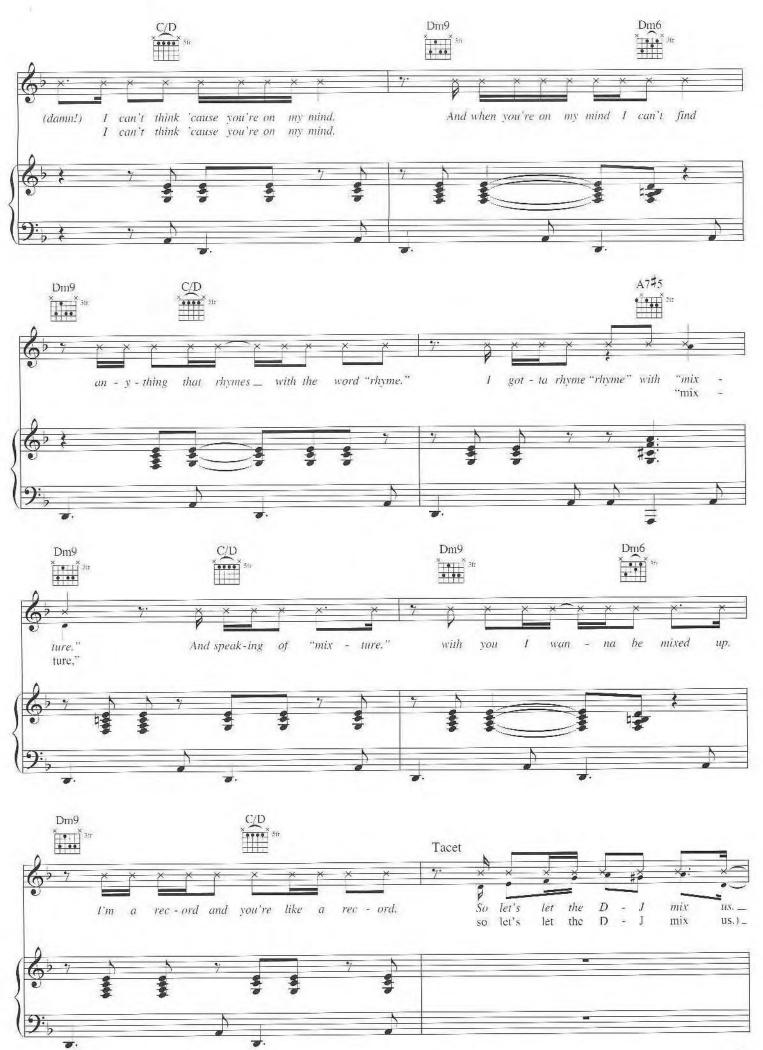
## Sexy

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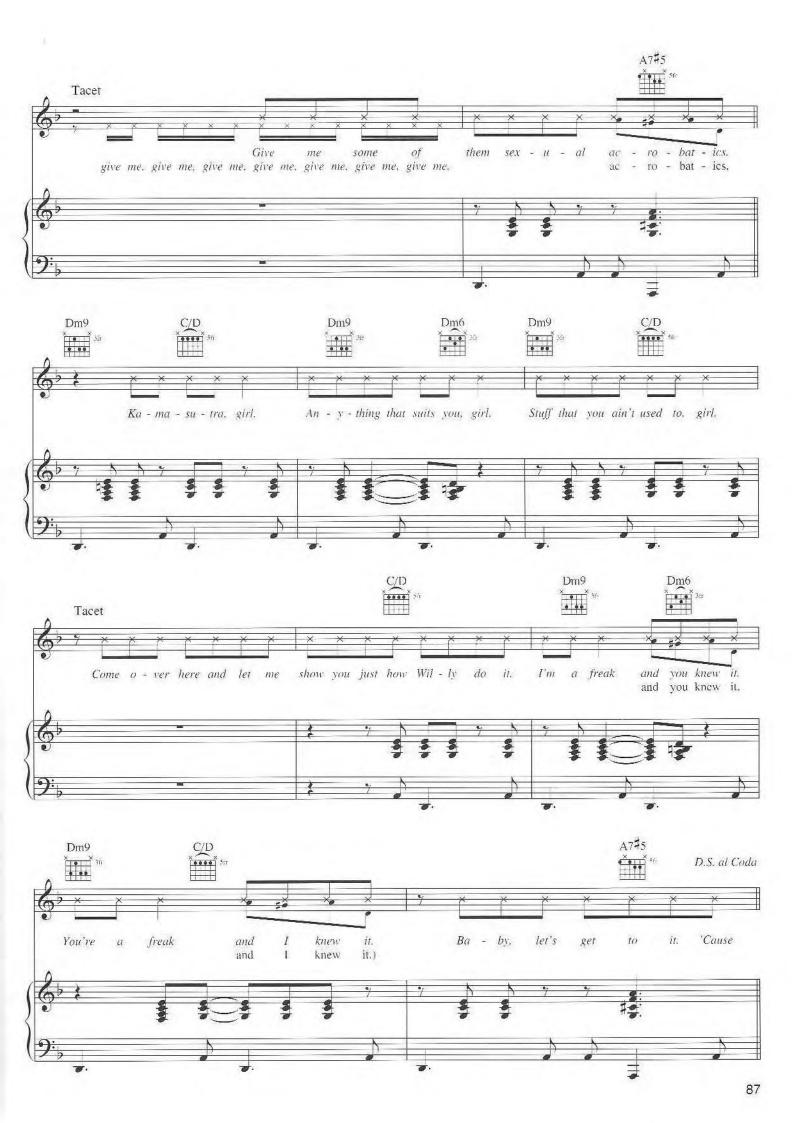


















## Fly Away

Words and Music by Will Adams, Stacy Ferguson and Ray Brady





















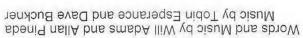
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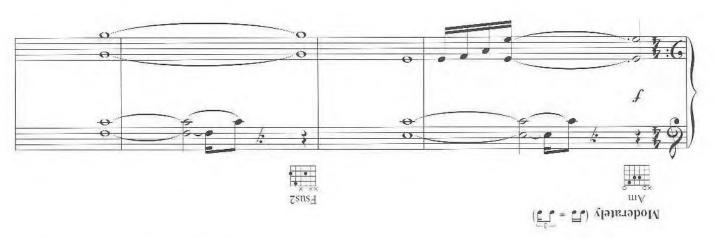
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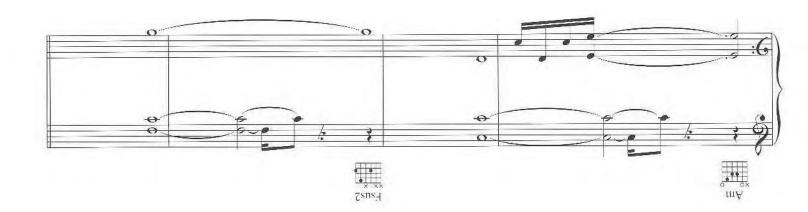


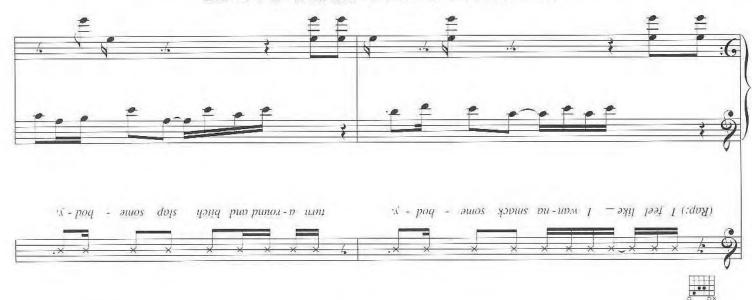
## **Anxiety**

Words by Jacoby Shaddix









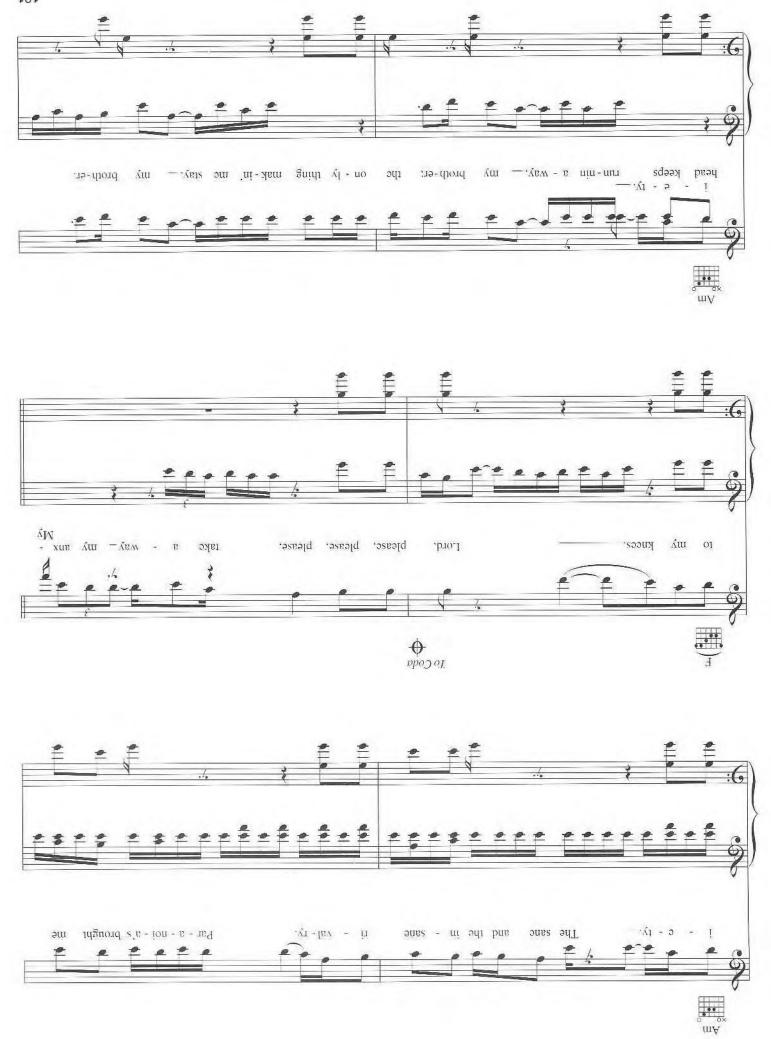


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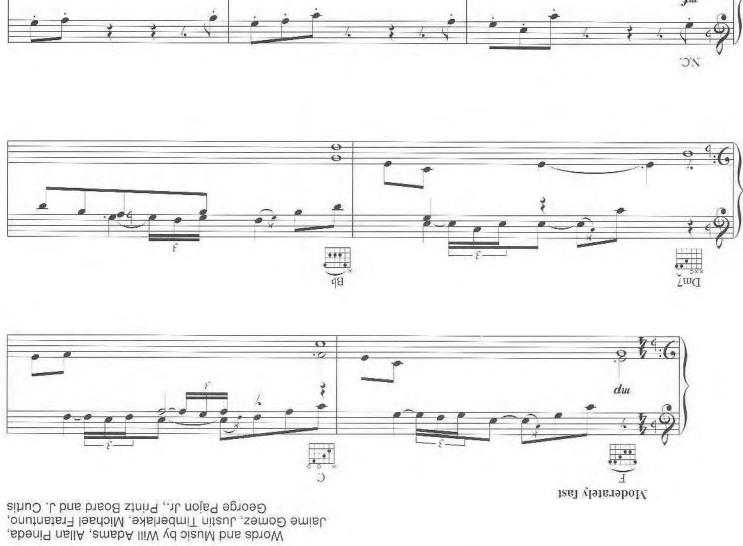


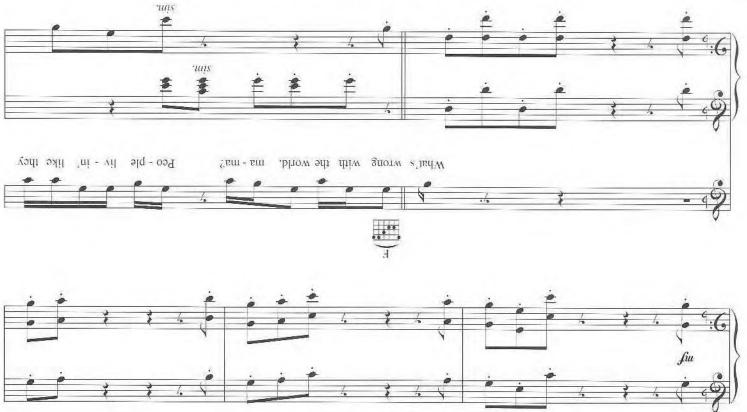




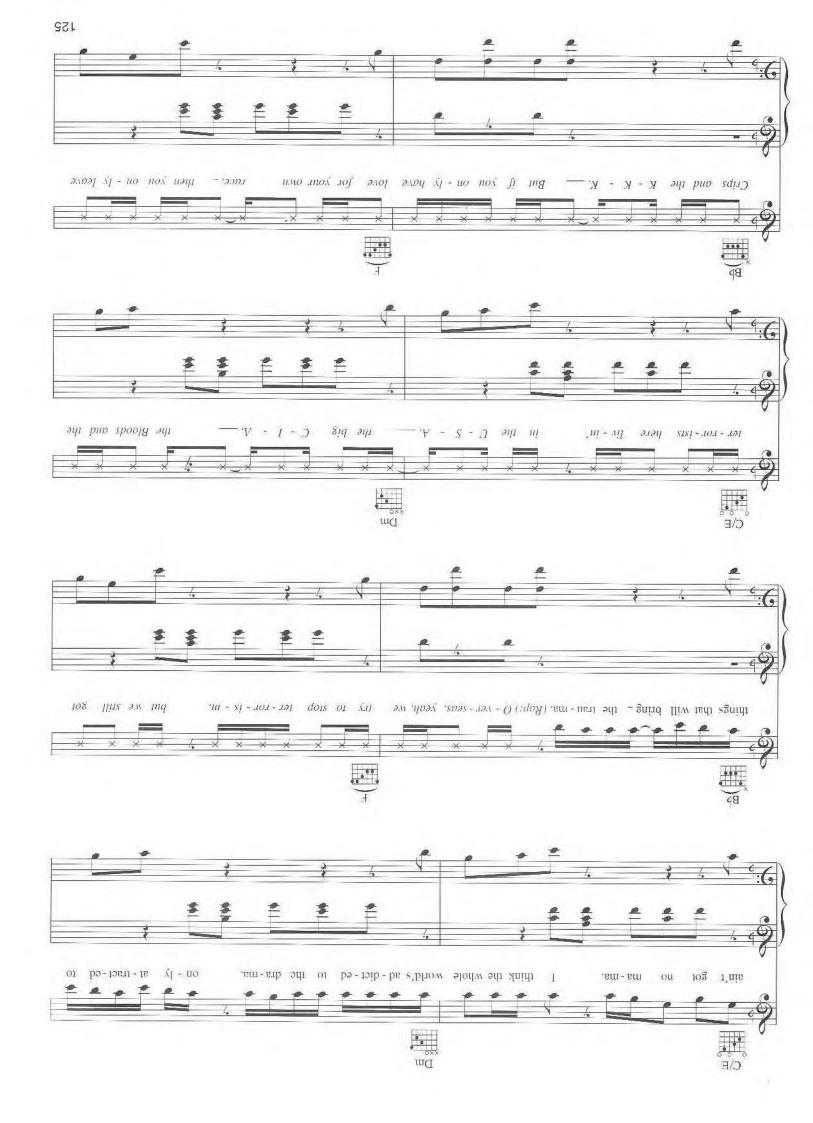


## Where Is the Love



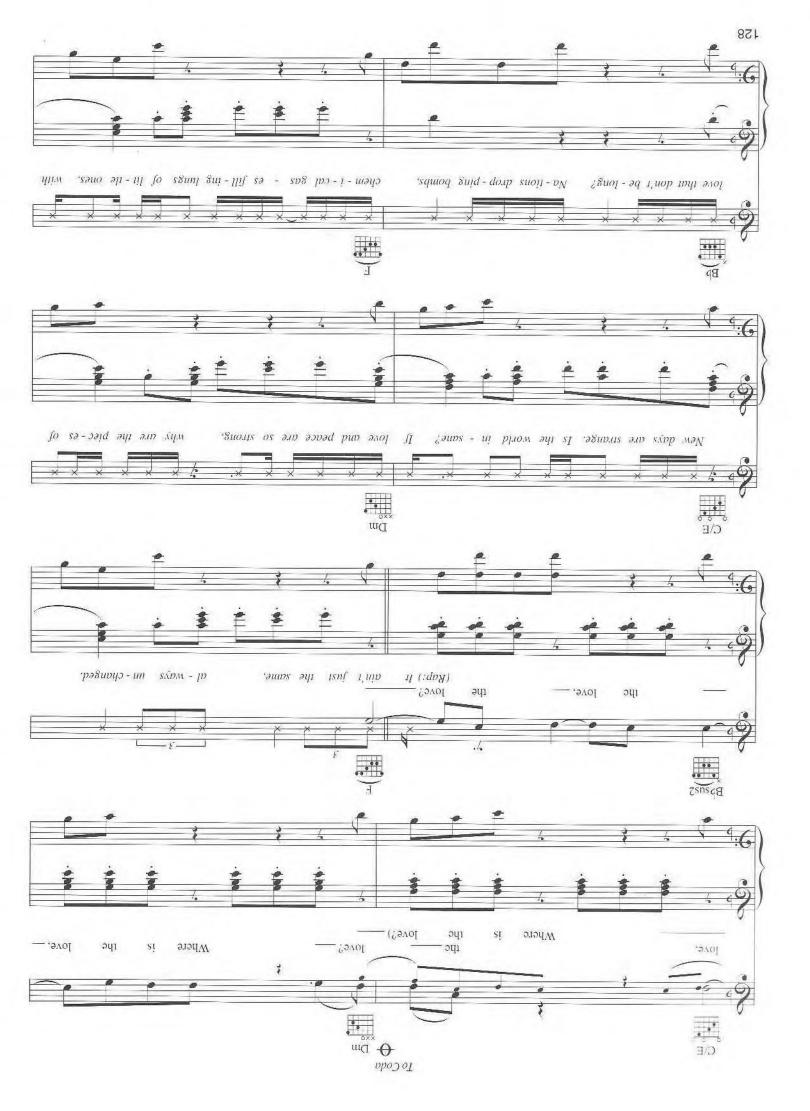






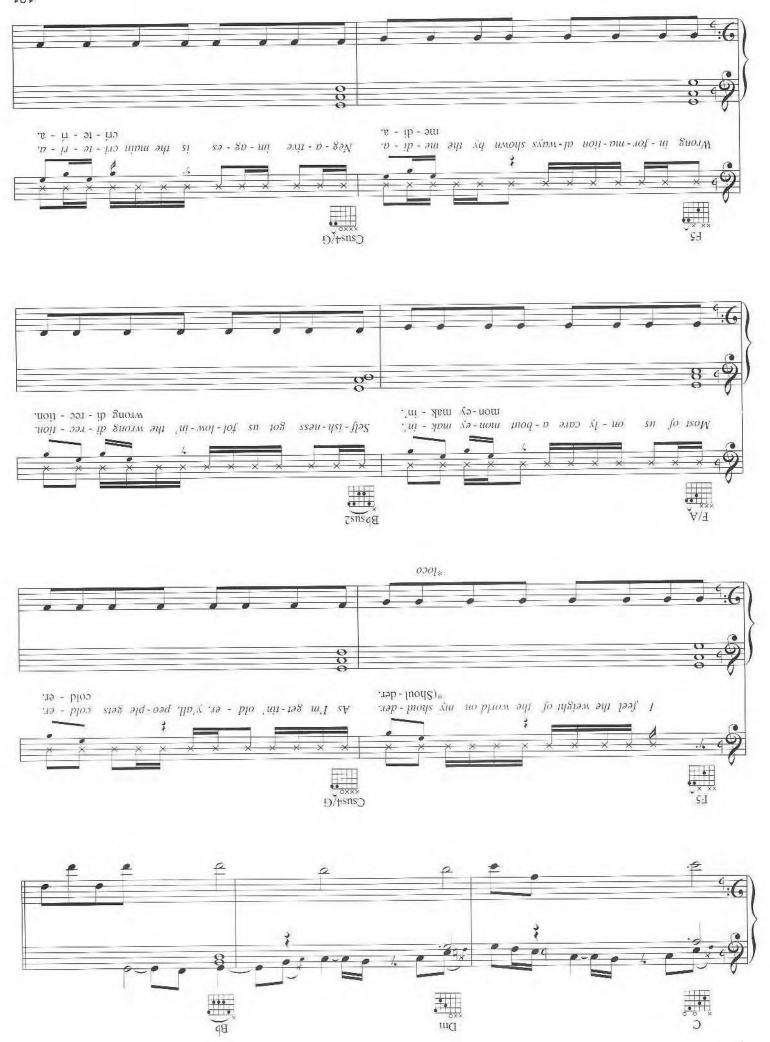












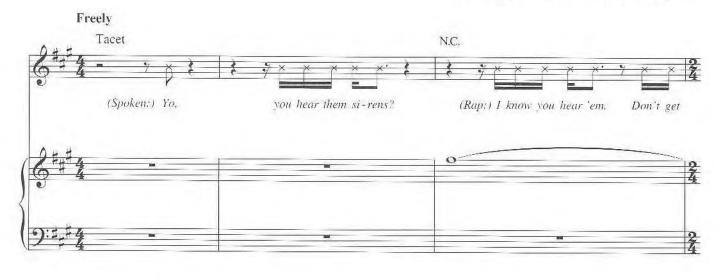


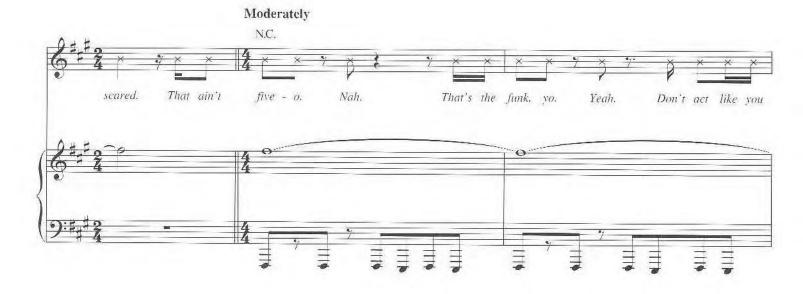


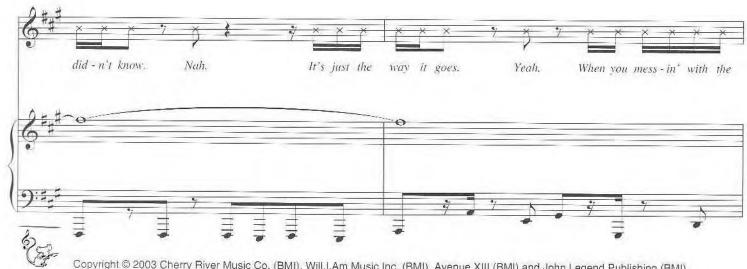


## The Boogie That Be

Words and Music by Will Adams, Thomas Van Musser and John Stephens









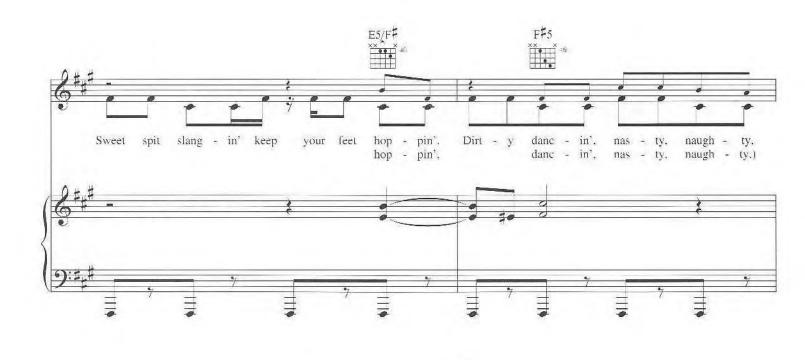


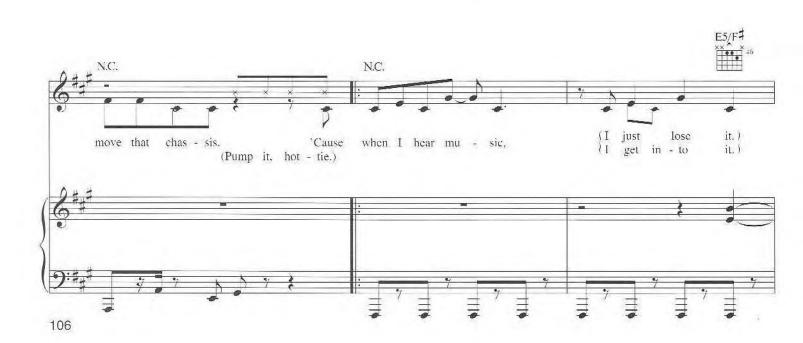




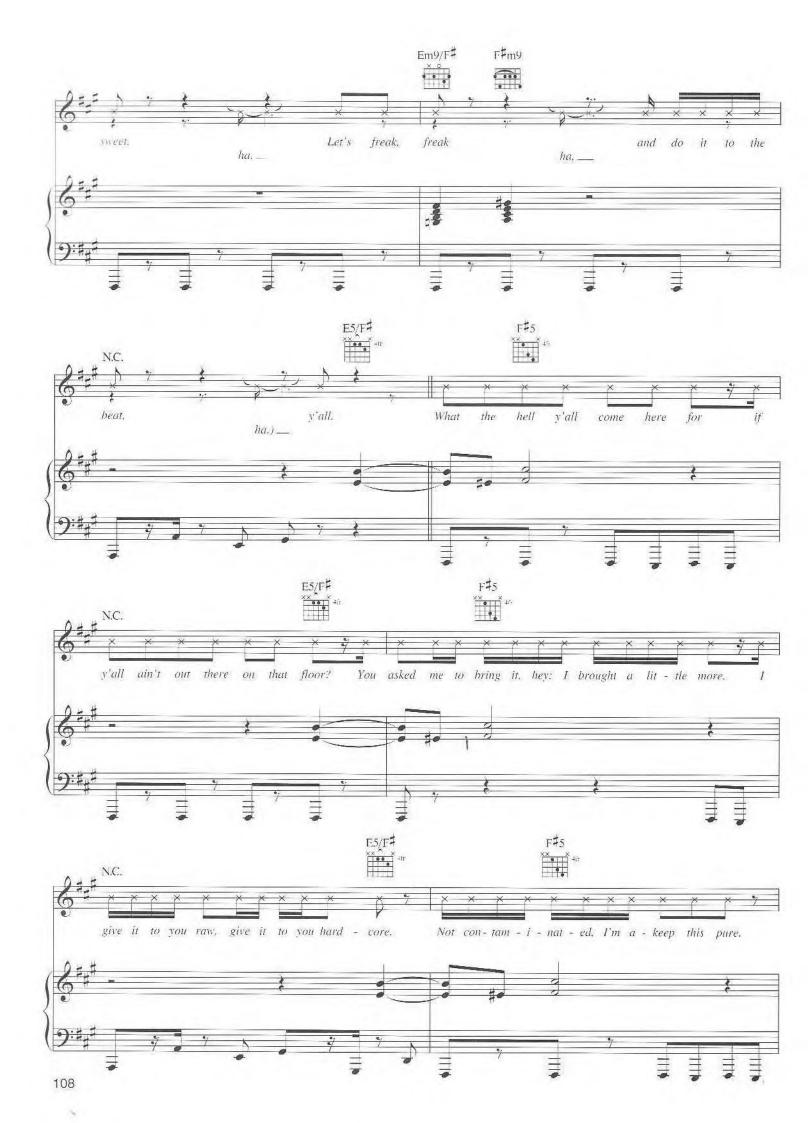
















## The Apl Song











labor day lit's a holiday) let's get retarded hands up smells like funk hey mama shut up



Where is the lave fly away

the boogle that be

latin girls

sexy

the apl song

anxiety

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